## NEWS RELEASE

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

**For Immediate Release** 

October 31, 2002

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## COLEBROOK WELCOME CENTER TO REOPEN FOR WINTER WEEKENDS RESPONSE TO RESIDENT REQUESTS TO KEEP EXPANDED FACILITY OPEN

In response to requests from several Colebrook area residents, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces the Colebrook Welcome Center, also known as The Great North Woods Interpretive Center, will reopen on December 15 for winter hours from Friday through Sunday.

The recently expanded Welcome Center on US Route 3 has in the past been open from mid-May through mid-October.

"With the addition of the Interpretive Center, the number of visitors has been quite good this past season, roughly 300 to 400 per day," says NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray. "Snowmobile traffic has become substantial in the past few years and it appears that it might be of value to experiment this winter with a limited schedule to see if conditions warrant the facility remaining open."

Beginning Sunday, December 15, the Colebrook Welcome Center will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm and Sundays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm through March 16, 2003. NHDOT personnel will staff the additional hours.

The Great North Woods Interpretive Center opened on May 18 following extensive renovations that include the addition of 1,500 square feet to the building. In addition to rest area facilities, the building houses the North Country Chamber of Commerce and an interpretive center that highlights the culture, natural diversity, history, tourism, business and recreational features of the upper Great North Woods region of New Hampshire.